

ABSTRACT

The present invention provides automated methods and systems for electronic order routing, and, more particularly, for selecting, ordering, routing, confirming, and tracking orders for financial instruments, such as mutual funds, among multiple buyers and sellers.

5 More specifically, the present invention provides end-to-end, straight-through-transaction processing methods and systems for multiple financial instruments combining order routing, execution, settlement, foreign exchange, and custodial services to financial service providers with a retail customer base. Further, the methods and systems may be utilized to perform one or more of the following tasks: (1) monitor the real-time status of a financial order at various  
10 stages; (2) accommodate additional financial instruments and additional users as the system expands; (3) facilitate lower transaction and processing costs; (4) provide multilingual capabilities, settlement currencies, and other identifiers necessary to quote and execute an order for a financial instrument; (5) minimize the manual entry and re-keying of information into multiple formats and templates used by brokers, fund managers, and other parties to a  
15 financial transaction.

The system components may include a plurality of client terminals running an interactive user interface, a network server, and at least one communications network. In other possible embodiments of the present invention, the methods and systems: (1) provide an archive capability for storing transactional data, including order data; (2) provide detailed  
20 reports; (3) provide integration with external and internal systems; (4) utilize state-of-the-art technology; and/or (5) allow for real-time system configuration and modifications.

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